

No. R-184. House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial anniversary of the legislative establishment of Vermont town forests.

(H.C.R.141)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, in 1915, the General Assembly recognized that municipally owned forests (Vermont town forests) would both protect important natural resources and provide revenue for towns, and

Whereas, to meet these objectives, the General Assembly enacted 1915 Acts and Resolves No. 24, “An Act to Provide for School Endowment Forests,” and

Whereas, Vermont town forests produce wood products, maintain wildlife habitat, protect water supplies, provide forest recreation, and are a resource for conservation education, and

Whereas, in 2015, 168 municipalities own town forests constituting 68,000 acres of land, and

Whereas, Vermont town forests may also be designated as watershed forests, community forests, school forests, town conservation areas, and town parks, and

Whereas, these woodland acres greatly enhance our communities and quality of life through their provision of social, ecological, and economic benefits, and

Whereas, town forests can drive economic and community development, and

Whereas, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and especially its county foresters, as well as regional and municipal planners, other forestry specialists, and local volunteers are the stewards and champions of Vermont town forests, and

Whereas, during the past century, town forest stewardship has created a culture and opportunity for Vermont’s communities to create, manage, and enjoy these municipally owned woodlands, now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the centennial anniversary of the legislative establishment of Vermont town forests. and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of the Vermont Town Forest Centennial Planning Committee; the Vermont League of Cities and Towns; the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts; the Green Mountain National Forest; the Secretary of Natural Resources; the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation; the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife; and the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.